



Instructions for Completing the Youth Group Camping Application Form (DEP-PARKS-APP-001)

Introduction

Youth Group Camping areas are offered for a minimal fee to qualifying youth organizations. The group camp areas are generally away from the main, public use areas, giving group leaders maximum control over their group's camping experience. Groups can carry on their activities - meetings, projects, games - free from outside interference and without disturbing other park visitors. This program is designed to encourage youths to learn about nature and the camping experience.

Qualifications

In order to qualify for Youth Group Camping, your group must be:

- **Youth Oriented:** the group must have a demonstrated interest in social, educational or religious work with youth. "Youth" generally implies age 18 and under.
- **Non-profit:** the group must be sponsored by or affiliated with a school, church or recognized youth organization. Effective January 1, 2002, written proof of IRS non-profit tax exempt status is required when applying for a youth group camping permit.

How to Apply

Reservations for Youth Group Camping areas may be made by completing the Youth Group Camping Application (DEP-PARKS-APP-001) and submitting it with the fee to the appropriate office (by mail) **at least fourteen (14) business days prior to your requested camping dates.** See the list on the next page of the available group camping areas, with their associated District office contact information.

Fee Information

The fee of \$25.00 must be submitted with the application for groups of up to 50 youth campers. An additional fee of \$25.00 must be submitted for every additional 50 campers. The payment should be in the form of a check or money order made payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut". For a refund, groups canceling their reservation must inform the District Office at least seven (7) days before a scheduled camping date. Cancellations made less than seven (7) days before a scheduled event are not eligible for a refund, but the trip may be rescheduled within the current camping season if dates are available.

***NOTE:** Staff at the offices can advise applicants of site availability, but will **not** take reservations by phone.*

The approved permit will be mailed to you, along with maps and other information specific to your designated camping area.

Guidelines

In order for Youth Group Camping to be offered as a program to the public, the following guidelines must be followed:

- The group leader (as named on the application) must be present during the entire stay and will serve as a contact person with park personnel.
- The group must have adult supervision in a ratio of at least one adult per ten campers under 18. The adult supervision ratio must also not exceed four per ten campers, with the exception of cub scouts who may be required to have a higher adult: youth ratio.


- Retain all or some of the vehicles in which you arrived for emergency purposes.
- At least one adult advisor should be trained in first aid and should have a first aid kit suitable for group needs.
- Tent Camping Only.
- Alcoholic beverages, pets and generators are not permitted in youth group camping areas.
- Duration of stay cannot exceed 4 days and 3 nights.
- There will be no camping at any of the state park or forest DEP lands from March 1 to the third weekend in April.

Notice to Campers

Some Youth Group Camping areas are located on or near State lands that are also open to hunting. Hunting seasons vary year-round; however the peak hunting season in Connecticut begins the third Saturday in October and runs through December. Hunting is not permitted on Sunday in Connecticut.

If you are selecting an area where hunting is permitted, please note the following precautions and **share them with your campers *before arriving at the site***:

- Campers should wear blaze orange or other bright clothing. Avoid use of brown, tan, gray, or white.
- If you see someone hunting, call out to them to identify your location.
- Consider using a bell on bikes, horses, or other outdoor equipment.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you will return.

NOTE: The  symbol on the following listed camping areas indicates that area is located on or near State lands that are also open to hunting.

Youth Group Camping areas are available at the following locations, listed with their associated District office:

Eastern District Office

Department of Environmental Protection
Attn: Stacey McLaughlin
209 Hebron Road
Marlborough, CT 06447
Phone: (860) 295-9523; Fax: (860) 344-2941



Cockaponset State Forest
Haddam

Mashamoquet Brook State Park
(Indian Chair Area)
Pomfret

Devil's Hopyard State Park
East Haddam



Nye Holman State Forest
Tolland

Gay City State Park
Hebron



Pachaug State Forest
(C.C.C. Area)
Voluntown



Goodwin Conservation Center
Hampton



Quaddick State Forest
Thompson

Hurd State Park
East Hampton



Shenipsit State Forest
(Kellogg Lot)
West Stafford

Western District Office

Department of Environmental Protection
230 Plymouth Road
Harwinton, CT 06791
Attention: Karen Marciano
Phone: (860) 485-0226; Fax: (860) 485-1638



American Legion State Forest
Pleasant Valley



Naugatuck State Forest
(Crombie Area)
Hamden
Primitive Area; No Drinking Water



High Bank National Park Service Property
(Stanley Tract)
Kent



Peoples State Forest
Barkhamsted

Kettletown State Park
Southbury

Putnam Memorial State Park
Redding

Mohawk State Forest
Cornwall

Sleeping Giant State Park
Hamden
Primitive Area; No Drinking Water